



Leonor Stjepic, second from the left, and colleagues receive the HealthInvestor award from Michael Portillo. Photo courtesy of HealthInvestor

Raft of survival

Recent news stories have stressed staying safe in the sun and the importance of applying sun protection properly. Many of the facts quoted are based on the work of the only medical research group in the world looking at how effectively sunscreens protect us against UVA damage.

This group is run by a UK charity called RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust), whose CEO for the last two years has been Leonor Stjepic, who lives in East End Road.

RAFT is an independent charity working to prevent and improve the treatment of major traumas such as burns, wounds and cancers of the skin. Its work was recognised by the annual national HealthInvestor Awards where RAFT was joint winner of the Third Sector Award.

Urgency

With cases of skin cancer quadrupling since the 1970s and almost five people a day dying from melanoma in the UK, RAFT's research into the prevention and cure of skin cancer is becoming increasingly urgent but is hampered by lack of funds.

"Like many other charities, we are affected by the current economic climate and have seen our income go down," says Leonor. "RAFT is fortunate

that, as a result of a legacy, it owns its own building within Mount Vernon Hospital so our overheads are low.

"However, we do not receive government funding for this work. Our skin cancer research is funded by donations from the public. Without the help of the public this work cannot go ahead."

For further information on skin cancer or on RAFT's work visit www.raft.ac.uk or write to Leonor at RAFT, Leopold Muller Building, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, HA6 2RN.

Credit card scam

An urgent warning has come from Barnet police about a new attempted fraud against the elderly. Suspects ring elderly victims to inform them that their credit card has been used in fraudulent circumstances and that they will send a plain clothes police officer to recover the card and PIN number for investigation.

After impersonating a police officer and collecting the card and PIN number they withdraw large sums of money from the victim's account. Please do not hand over your credit card or PIN to anyone.

Seen and heard

Litter-picker extraordinaire
Walking between Shakespeare Gardens and the High Road every day is an anonymous one-woman street-cleaning machine.

This smartly dressed lady picks up other people's litter from pavements and gutters, pops it into a carrier bag and

bins it. Baronsmere Road, in particular, dismays her but instead of just grumbling she tackles the problem.

Imagine our streets if 10, 50 or 100 of us took to regular litter-picking.

Mugging in Church Lane

By Janet Maitland

A woman was mugged on her way home in Church Lane at about 11.30pm on 30 June. She was pushed over and her bag was snatched. The suspect fled the scene on a scooter driven by another man. Both men were wearing crash helmets.

A 20-year-old man was arrested and bailed the following day. The suspects are believed to have been in the area for some time prior to the incident and police are still appeal-

ing for witnesses to the offence.

Anyone with information should call Barnet Police on 0300 123 1212 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome



Security begins at home

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

For the lucky ones among us the sun drenched beaches we dreamed about through the winter months are now only a flight away. But do take a few minutes to check over your home security before digging out the suitcases.

Make sure your home looks occupied. Don't leave the curtains closed as this is a sure sign the house is empty. Use automatic timer switches to turn on some of your lights when it goes dark. Ask a friend or neighbour to collect mail, water plants and generally keep an eye out for you. Let them have your spare keys, but don't put your name or address on the keys.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from home. Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with the bank or other family members.

Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind. If you normally leave valuables like bicycles in your shed,

consider putting them in your house. Do the same with your tools and garden furniture to prevent them from being used to break into your home.

Don't leave valuables, like laptops, DVD players or mobile phones where they can be seen through windows. Consider fitting a letterbox cage, which prevents burglars from putting their hands through and trying the latches from the inside.

For more information about home security please contact us. The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol. Happy holidays.



Hoax callers on the line

By Janet Maitland

If you get a call from BT telling you that your bill needs paying and if you don't pay up your line will be cut off immediately, don't pay. It is definitely a hoax.

The fake BT official says that if you do not pay, not only will you be disconnected but reconnection will cost you £75, and you will be given a new number. If you say you don't owe anything because you pay by direct debit, the caller tells you it's failed.

If you say you don't believe them, the caller tells you that they will suspend the line and you should try to make a call after 15 seconds. When you do this, the line is dead. You hang up and they call you back a minute later. Convinced, you pay by card, thereby giving the hoaxer all your card details.

Some victims have even

been told that their card has been declined and have then provided all the details from another card. One victim provided details from seven cards.

Just keeps you hanging on...

The scam depends on you forgetting that they called you in the first place. This means that until they hang up, you cannot make calls. The caller just waits till you've tried to ring out, then hangs up and calls you back again.

BT are aware of this scam and have advised anyone who receives such a call to notify the police and to call the Nuisance Call Bureau on 0800 411 422.



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